



Daily Report

East Europe

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Albania: NATO's Solana, Serreqi Discuss Tirana's Entry Hopes

AU0205190196 Tirana ATA in English
1030 GMT 2 May 96

[Report by A. Cama and M. Vuji]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, May 2 (ATA)—NATO General Secretary Javier Solana declared yesterday in Tirana that Albania will be treated as a priority in the group of Eastern European countries which have asked for NATO membership.

Solana met Albanian Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi. The meeting focused in NATO-Albania relations and in possibilities to give a new impetus to them toward the priority of Albanian foreign policy for a full integration of Albania into NATO.

Serreqi treating bilateral relations brought into evidence the results of this cooperation. "Albania was among the first countries signing the Partnership for Peace (PFP) accord and has been very active in it," he said.

Albanian minister said that Albania having geographical, political, and strategic importance has contributed and continues to intensively contribute in peace settlement and stability in the region. Besides portal facilities it has offered a peace keeping military team to be attached to multinational forces in Bosnia.

Politically Albania has played a positive role in solution of the crisis and supported Dayton peace accord as the best solution for the moment. Serreqi praised Albania's membership in the NATO a vital step for Albania. Albania's strategical position is a natural continuity of the southern branch of the alliance and it was the first country leaving Warsaw Treaty.

Solana highly praised Albanian contribution in the Partnership for Peace accord, its fruitful cooperation with the armies of partner countries and its role in security of peace in the region. He also praised the pro-European policy the democratic government has followed and supported its tendencies for a full integration into European-Atlantic structures. Solana also praised good neighbouring relationship policy Albania follows and the democratic reforms in Albania. Regarding the modality of membership Solana backed Albanian Government idea according to which membership should not be treated in group of states but each state separately.

Serreqi said that he highly estimated the dialogue phase between NATO and partner countries (member candidates) and soon will present a material which will serve the start of dialogue.

He also treated Kosova issue presenting the idea of Albanian Government against changing of borders, respect

of nation self-determination as a universal principle and a solution through negotiations of this problem. It is the duty of international community to exercise pressure to Belgrade to open dialogue in the presence of a third party. Serreqi said.

He also stressed that international community should take measures to prevent conflict in Kosova, demilitarise the area, return OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] watch and other forms of international presence in Kosova.

It should also take measures to prevent violation of human national rights of Albanians there, prevent ethnic cleansing and Serbian colonisation, re-opening of democratic legal institutions in Kosova, and creation of a dialogue climate between Prishtina and Belgrade.

Albania: Berisha Vows To Be NATO's 'Strategic, Loyal Ally'

AU0205194196 Tirana ATA in English
1203 GMT 2 May 96

[Report by R. Floqi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, May 2 (ATA)—Albanian President Sali Berisha reiterated Albania's commitment to be a NATO allied state in a dinner yesterday in the Palace of Brigades to honour NATO secretary-general.

"Albania is resolute to cooperate in the context of the Partnership for Peace initiative so that to ensure its full membership in NATO," said Berisha, reiterating Albania's commitment to become a NATO member.

"Albania is determined to cooperate in the context of the Partnership for Peace to ensure its full integration in NATO," said Berisha. "Albania will be a small, strategic, and loyal ally of NATO and Euro-Atlantic institutions," he said.

Solana's visit to Albania is the second by a NATO secretary-general after that of Manfred Werner in 1993.

In his address, Solana expressed his gratitude and thanks for the "results of Albania's commitments to the Partnership for Peace initiative, the logistic assistance it has rendered to the IFOR [Implementation Force] troops in Bosnia and the serious preparations of Albania to send a peacekeeping unit in Croatia in the context of IFOR. All this cooperation will be a basis for the consolidation of peace in the region," said Solana.

Albania: NATO's Solana Explains Expansion Policy

AU0305055496 Tirana ATA in English
2044 GMT 2 May 96

[Report by A. Cama and F. Vladi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tirana, May 2 (ATA)—NATO Secretary General Javier Solana told the Albanian Association of North Atlantic today that 1996 will be the year of individual dialogue of Albania with NATO.

"Use 1996 for an individual dialogue with NATO," Solana said. He said that he was impressed with the political, economic, and military evolution in Albania and especially with the changes in the field of defence. "I want to insist in changes in the field of defence because when we speak of security it has a wide sense which is related with the defence of the country and security, stability of political, economic, and military institutions," Solana said.

Solana thanked Albania for its participation in Partnership for Peace.

"Many important exercises have been launched during this year in Albania. Albania-NATO cooperation will increase possibilities of recognition and familiarity with each other creating a greater efficiency for military needs," Solana said.

Speaking about NATO expansion, Solana said that this has started in 1994 and "this process includes various plans."

"In 1996 we have a new aspect of NATO expansion to other countries. Albania will be one of these countries," Solana added. He stressed that this will be a very important effort to analyse the demands, changes, adaption of other countries and at the same time to know what NATO itself can do to be prepared for a new NATO image in the future.

"We have much to do. We have part of the responsibility and our friends have theirs," Solana said adding that the goal is the same, that of security and defence of the continent to guarantee stability and security which are two factors of development in "a society which want to live."

"What we want to defend are all values which we have created [passage indistinct] appreciation of the Albanian policy to safeguard peace and stability in the region.

He added that Albania supports Dayton accord and praised the contribution of NATO member states to peace in Bosnia, "but we stressed that peace in the region will not be safe without a solution to the Kosova problem."

"We think that NATO expansion will pass from a study phase in a concrete one as a necessity for a real peace. Every people and state should decide what should do," Moisiu [deputy defense minister] said.

He said that Albania's efforts to find best ways to safeguard peace should not trouble anyone, "because the Albanians have never been aggressive."

"Our maximum activity in Partnership for Peace shows the predisposition to learn as much as possible to come closer to the standards of NATO member states and to achieve Albania's membership as soon as possible," Moisiu said.

Asked by a journalist whether political criterion or military one is a priority to be accepted in NATO, Solana said that the primary obligation is the political criterion "because all want to defend something and we should know and define what should be defended."

[Passage indistinct] political, economic, and military institutions," Solana said. Solana thanked Albania for its participation in Partnership for Peace.

Asked what is NATO's position and strategy in case of an imminent flare-up in Kosova, Solana said that NATO has its own strategy for all the region which has a preventive nature "and it will stick to this."

Solana said that all NATO member countries will do their preventive task. "The main thing now is to make possible the return of OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] Mission in Kosova," Solana said.

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana left Albania today for Sofia.

Bulgaria: NATO's Solana, Videnov Comment on Talks

AU0205175596 *Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 2 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Today NATO Secretary General Javier Solana arrived on a visit to Bulgaria. At the Boyana Residence in Sofia Mr. Solana held talks with Prime Minister Zhan Videnov, with the participation of Foreign Minister Georgi Pirinski, Defense Minister Dimitur Pavlov, and Colonel General Tsvetan Totomirov, chief of the Bulgarian Army General Staff.

Following this meeting, Javier Solana and Zhan Videnov made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Solana in English, fading into Bulgarian translation] I am very very happy to be here in your country. I have had a very fruitful exchange of ideas with your prime minister on a wide range of problems of mutual interest. We discussed the situation in Bosnia, and I expressed my thanks for your country's contribution to the peace process. We also talked about the intense dialogue between your country and NATO and the future relations between NATO and Bulgaria. I am very pleased with the way in which our dialogue is progressing. I am sure that before the end of my visit I will know much more about your country's position, and that these talks will contribute toward a more secure European continent, which is our common goal.

[Videnov] Allow me to thank you for finding the time to accept the Bulgarian Government's invitation, despite your extremely busy program, and to make this visit, which is a very important step in our intense dialogue on investigating the issue of NATO's expansion. This gives us the opportunity to express our own position more clearly and to put our more concrete questions, which we will discuss in Brussels on 6 May, when the specific phase of our intense dialogue with NATO begins. [end recording]

The NATO secretary general also met with National Assembly Chairman Blagovest Sendov, who reminded him that all foreign policy issues lie within the competence of the National Assembly and the government that it appointed. He pointed out that these are constitutional bodies that have to resolve the issues relating to Bulgaria's cooperation and drawing closer to the North Atlantic alliance. Mr. Sendov stressed that Bulgaria's entry into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures is a priority task of our foreign policy. Mr. Solana declared that every country is free to make its own independent choice.

Javier Solana highly praised the Bulgarian individual document advocating an active dialogue with NATO. Krasimir Premyanov stated following the NATO secretary general's meeting with the leaders of the Democratic Left Parliamentary Group. The group's leaders presented the three alternatives for guaranteeing Bulgaria's national security: participation in Partnership for

Peace, full membership in NATO, and neutrality. Mr. Solana expressed an objection to the idea of a referendum on joining NATO, because this presupposes a confrontation between various groups in the nation. In Mr. Solana's view, the politicians should try to reach a consensus and assume responsibility for security issues.

The Bulgarian opposition is united in its conviction that Bulgaria must become a full-fledged member of NATO and that this membership will open the way for our country toward the European Union. The leaders of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], People's Union, and Rights and Freedoms Movement made this declaration to Javier Solana at a 45-minute meeting. The leadership of the SDS coalition handed the NATO secretary general a memorandum entitled: Bulgaria and NATO: the SDS Viewpoint.

At this moment, according to the preliminary program, which is running slightly late, a ceremony is ending in Sofia's South Park, where Mr. Solana and members of the Atlantic Club are unveiling a memorial plaque to the deceased former NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner. Following this, Mr. Solana is to deliver a lecture in the National Palace of Culture.

Bulgaria: Zhelev Affirms Government's Interest in NATO

AU0205192796 *Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1900 GMT 2 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The government and the parliamentary majority are temporary and will disappear, but Bulgaria's interests and national security are lasting phenomena and are linked with NATO. President Zhelev made this statement at a news conference following his meeting with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana.

According to advance information, in addition to the Bulgarian head of state and the NATO chief, Foreign Minister Georgi Pirinski and Defense Minister Dimitur Pavlov were expected to take part in this news conference.

Bulgaria regards NATO not only as a military-political organization, but also as a guarantor of the democratic processes in eastern Europe. For the time being, we have no consensus on the issue of our membership in the North Atlantic Alliance, President Zhelev declared. He expressed the hope that, given time, this consensus will be achieved.

NATO Secretary General Solana gave a high assessment to the Bulgaria's participation in the Partnership for Peace Initiative and described the Bulgarian Government's document advocating an intensive dialogue with NATO as good and valuable. So far no country has been admitted or excluded from NATO, Solana said. The decision to accept new countries as members will depend on the countries themselves and the 16 states with voting rights in NATO, he said.

Bulgaria: NATO's Solana Notes Sofia's 'Lack of Consensus'

AU0305071096 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0400 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Governments and parliamentary majorities are temporary phenomena. They come and go, while Bulgaria's interests and national security are lasting factors that are linked to NATO. This is what President Zhelev said yesterday at a joint news conference with Javier Solana. President Zhelev further said:

[Begin recording] For us, NATO is not just a military-political organization and structure; it is part of a community inspired by the assets and values of modern democracy. In addition to everything else, Bulgaria could support NATO as a system of collective security, no less than what it could receive because of Bulgaria's geographic and geopolitical location. Bulgaria must only categorically announce its willingness to join NATO, like the great majority of postcommunist states did. [end recording]

Mr. Solana said:

[Begin Solana recording, in English fading into Bulgarian translation] Please allow me to say sincerely that Bulgaria's document on conducting an intensive dialogue with NATO is a very good one. We value it very much, and I am convinced that by the end of the year, we will reach a better understanding and cooperation. I must stress that every country has the right to participate in this dialogue. So far, no one has been admitted or banned from NATO admission. We are still in the process of conducting a dialogue. [end recording]

The decision will come in due time and it will be adopted on the basis of what every country has to say for itself, Javier Solana said, and added that he senses a lack of consensus in Bulgaria on the issue of NATO membership.

Bulgaria: NATO's Solana Notes Concerns About Security

AU0305094696 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] NATO Secretary General Javier Solana ended his visit to Bulgaria on 3 May and departed for Bucharest. Mr. Solana was seen off at Sofia Airport by Foreign Minister Georgi Pirinski. This is how the two diplomats assessed the visit:

[Begin Solana recording, in English fading into Bulgarian translation] As you know we have begun a funda-

mental dialogue with your country. It will most likely end by the end of December, and by then we will know a lot about each other. The crucial words of my visit are thank you and friendship. [end recording]

[Begin Pirinski recording] I think that the secretary general is leaving with the impression that a normal discussion is taking place in Bulgaria. This is normal for every democratic country. Different positions and views are expressed, but everything is done on the basis of common principles and values that stress national security as Bulgaria's basic priority. The discussion also expresses Bulgaria's striving to participate in the various European and Euro-Atlantic structures on the basis of the same principles—preserving the democratic political system, human rights, and the supremacy of the law. [end recording]

Mr. Pirinski also said: There is no reason to think that Bulgaria is isolated because of its less categorical position on NATO than the countries of the Visegrad group.

Javier Solana pointed out that the 11 East European partners of NATO are in an equal position of increased dialogue, and they have the same problems and concerns about their security.

Bulgaria: Dollar Breaks Through 100 Leva Barrier

AU0205134496 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the dollar broke through the psychological barrier of 100 leva, but at this price there was no market for the greenback. Even before the May Day holiday, some people expected that the dollar would reach this value.

According to information obtained from our colleagues at the CAPITAL PRESS newspaper, the interbank market has consolidated above the level of 91 leva to the dollar, but almost no buyers and sellers have appeared and only insignificant amounts are being traded.

An information blackout continues on the state of the foreign exchange market. Both the Bulgarian National Bank [BNB] and the foreign exchange dealers decline to comment. Intervention to lower the dollar-lev rate is possible and may be a psychological consequence of talk about pressure being applied to the BNB to reduce the base interest rate. The decline in the foreign currency reserves and the upcoming payments due on the foreign debt are also factors that tend to force the dollar upwards.

Czech Republic: International Impact of NATO Enlargement Viewed

AU0205140996 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES
in Czech 29 Apr 96 p 2

["Analysis" by Jan Gazdik: "Entry Into NATO Is Admittedly Near, But Will Not Happen Immediately"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague—Although Western politicians and diplomats maintain that Poland, the Czech Republic, and also Hungary are almost ready for admission into NATO, these countries will, however, obviously have to wait a while yet for their incorporation into the Alliance.

Western experts are also admitting more openly than hitherto that the international state of affairs—which, so far, has not been mentioned much—will decide on NATO's enlargement. This has also been confirmed by an international seminar of experts on security policy, which was held in Prague at the end of last week.

The efforts by the post-communist countries to get into NATO are, of course, being monitored with alarm by, for example, Japan. A senior Czech diplomat has said that Japan's growing objections stem, among other things, from concern about the rapprochement of the eastern powers, Russia and China. "This notion literally terrifies the Japanese," said the diplomat.

Thus, the negative international consequences of NATO enlargement could, under certain circumstances, push into the background the basic criterion that those interested in joining the Alliance have to fulfill—political and economic stability.

The sincerity of the West's concerns that the too rapid enlargement of the Alliance will not improve Europe's security, but, on the contrary, contribute to its instability, has also been confirmed by the former British ambassador to Moscow, Roderick Braithwaite. He is convinced that Europe's security will not pass muster without Russia.

Moreover, in the discussions on NATO enlargement, the fact that the West does not expect a Russian armed attack on Eastern Europe is being referred to more and more often. And, if Russia were, after all, to take such a step, it would not be the countries closest to NATO entry that would be at risk, but Ukraine and Slovakia.

Despite this, Western politicians, diplomats, and military think that the Czech Republic should not succumb to despondency on account of the Alliance's cautious consideration of how and when to enlarge NATO. On the contrary, it should concentrate all the more on the democratic management and supervision of the army, which it has now begun. "This is a far more important criterion for a country's entry into NATO than tank modernization," thinks Professor Otto Pick, the director of the Institute for International Relations.

Therefore, the new government that will emerge from the upcoming elections will not only be faced with the task—postponed for four years—of telling the transforming army what it expects from it, but also of saying what it is willing to pay for the country's defense.

At the same time, the experts estimate that the army's budget will have to be increased in the very near future from the current 30 billion korunas [Kc] to Kc40 billion. This sum would have to be incomparably higher if the country were to abandon joining the Alliance and to decide on defending itself with its own forces.

Czech Republic: NATO Entry for Eastern European States Viewed

AU0305082596 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech
29 Apr 96 p 6

[Commentary by Pavel Novotny: "NATO Stands for Security, Neutrality for Spending"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The North Atlantic Alliance—at present, the only efficiently working Euro-Atlantic security mechanism—considers expansion eastwards one of its priority tasks. This wise decision, which pacified the newly democratic states of the former Eastern bloc, was made by the representatives of the 16 countries of the Alliance as early as 1994. Thereby they accelerated the pace of the race in the Central and Eastern Europe, the finish line of which, while precisely defined—full membership in NATO—remains out of sight. Javier Solana, secretary general of the Alliance, apparently came today to examine its course.

The membership in the Alliance is an important guarantee of external security of the candidate countries. At the same time, it is the most expedient one. Namely, neutrality is rather costly, and, above all, it is not a definite guarantee. The idea of a regional grouping of some, or all states in the zone between the Baltic and the Black Sea bore disastrous consequences once already. Hence, it is encouraging for the future development of the Czech Republic that the decisive political forces have a good memory, and do not want to even hear about forming such "alternative" armed groupings.

The pack of the NATO-membership hopefuls has broken in recent years. It seems that it is successfully spearheaded by the recently formed Warsaw-Prague axis Poland (mostly) and the Czech Republic (also) are—(not only) according to Czech Defense Minister Vilem Holan—"the gate to the expansion of the Alliance." A look at the map is allegedly all that one needs. At a recent meeting between the Czech and the Polish ministers in Vyskov, Dariusz Rosati, Warsaw chief of the diplomatic corps, in his turn, added the finishing touches to the atmosphere of perfect consensus saying: "There are only a few countries as close to one another as the Czech Republic and Poland." If aircraft were to be jointly purchased abroad, for instance, and the U.S. Congress would actually approve the financial assistance for

the entry into the Alliance of all the new countries, there is a good deal for everyone.

The situation with the countries east of us is worse. Although Hungary seemed to be clearly in the lead after U.S. troops began to operate on its territory for the deployment in Bosnia, its prospects for the pole position have been adversely affected by the unsettled relations with neighboring Romania and Slovakia. The Alliance fears conceivable instability in its ranks: The incessant disputes between Turkey and Greece cause it enough headaches. Bratislava is lagging behind mostly politically because, in addition to constant disagreements with the Hungarians on both sides of the Slovak border, they have not demonstrated overly democratic politics. True, the unassuming Romanians cooperate well militarily, above all, with Germany, but both the state and the army lack funds, the ability to listen to the opposition, etc. Sofia does not even know whether it really wants to join NATO, while in Albania the domestic problems are seen to first: There is no time to do any more.

Javier Solana, who—prior to his departure for Prague—spoke in favor of the "membership of the Czech Republic in a collective alliance" as more expedient regarding the budget. He made it clear to Moscow—in addition to the promise of cooperation—that NATO will expand despite its protests, and (let us hope) he will carry in his briefcase a document on our readiness to join NATO. At the turn of this and the next years—that is, after the presidential elections in Russia and the United States—the schedule for the integration of the new countries into the Alliance will likely be decided. We should be ready.

Czech Republic: Some StB Files To Remain Secret Despite New Law

AU0205125496 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES
in Czech 29 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by "(ina, ajk)": "Certain StB Files Will Continue To Be Inaccessible"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague—The Interior Ministry expects that, even after the approval of the law on

opening the State Security's [StB] files, it will keep some of the former communist secret police's files classified. These will be materials that are used by the current security bodies; for example, in the campaign against international terrorism.

"In warranted cases, where it is necessary from the point of view of the state's security, I will be able to decide on the reclassification of a file. This concerns at most 100 files out of the overall 60,000," said Interior Minister Jan Ruml.

The law, approved by parliament on 26 April, also declassifies the files of so-called protected persons, which the Interior Ministry had originally wanted to keep classified. These materials concern members of the government and parliament, deputy ministers, and leading state administration officials and contain information on their opposition to the pre-November [1989] regime.

On the other hand, the intelligence and military counter-espionage files will continue to be inaccessible; that is, in the intelligence service, no personal files were kept on specific persons, but there was a system of so-called subject files, which contained more people. "It would be technically demanding to extract individual persons from it," said Ruml.

The military counterintelligence files will not be made accessible because they are part of the still-undivided property of the former Federation. Some documents are, therefore, in Slovakia.

People will have the opportunity to examine—for a small fee—the files as of December.

Slovakia: Holbrooke's Voicing 'Dictate' on NATO Viewed

AU0305081896 Bratislava SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA
in Slovak 2 May 96 p 3

[Commentary by Peter Strelinger: "Great Maneuvers of the Hungarian Diplomats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While NATO Secretary General Javier Solana's visit to Slovakia was announced long beforehand and eagerly awaited, it was somewhat surprising when Richard Holbrooke, deputy president of the CS First Boston Corporation investment bank and former U.S. assistant secretary of state, also appeared in Bratislava on 30 April. Despite his current job in high-level banking, this extraordinarily experienced and influential diplomat, known as the negotiator in Bosnia and organizer of the Dayton talks, belongs to President Clinton's inner circle. Hence, the reception extended to him by the Slovak Republic's top officials is not surprising.

Although we did not take part in the official talks between Holbrooke and Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, we are interested in the main reason for this extraordinary unscheduled visit. One does not need much diplomatic experience to figure out that Holbrooke was only interested in economic developments and investment possibilities in Slovakia out of politeness. After the strong "denials" by Hungarian Foreign Minister L. Kovacs and his spokesman on Tuesday night, there is no doubt about the spirit of the mission with which a man who has so much negotiating experience came here via the Hungarian capital. It is in vain that Budapest fervently denies that Holbrooke came in the role of "mediator"—translated into diplomatic lingo—the opposite is undoubtedly true!

Nevertheless, let us move from guesswork and hypotheses to the facts: At a brief lobby news conference, Holbrooke revealed that his renewed visit to Bratislava and meeting with Slovak Government officials were not official—but private. Moreover, he said that, among other things, he had discussed Slovak-Hungarian relations with the Slovak prime minister.

"As a private individual, I believe that Americans are interested in developments in this region, and therefore we also discussed how desirable it would be if the Slovak Government were to complete the ratification of the treaty that has been signed," the U.S. banker, diplomat (and negotiator) said. He immediately added (if we are to believe the official TASR report) "that the signing of the basic treaty—which represents a definite solution to the relations between Slovakia and Hungary—was very much supported in the United

States." He recalled that it was a condition for the U.S. Government to discuss the Slovak Republic's NATO membership. Well, it is no longer diplomacy but rather an unequivocal dictate of the United States, when Holbrooke concludes by saying: "It is inevitable, although it may not be the most important criterion for membership in the North Atlantic Alliance." It is obvious that such a statement could not be made by an official representative of a world power. If Holbrooke made it, however, there is no doubt that it was the White House itself that was probably speaking through Richard Holbrooke's "personal" mouth. Thus, neither democracy nor Slovakia's economic results are the criterion but rather the settlement of relations between Slovakia and Hungary! This vantage point makes it possible for us to understand why Meciar's government is such a thorn in the West's side, because while it also wishes Slovak-Hungarian relations to be resolved, the outcome should not be as it was under Greater Hungary.

Moreover, Hungarian circles in Budapest and the strong lobby in the United States are becoming impatient because things are not working out as they planned. They are bringing up the big guns. They expect small Slovakia to buckle under the pressure and to rest our heads in the lap of the good old Hungary. Incidentally, let us recall again: Richard Holbrooke is not only an influential adviser to President Clinton and a great diplomat, as a "private individual" he is also the husband of U.S. journalist (of Hungarian origin) Kati Marton, who does not have the best reputation in Slovakia.

Slovakia: Meciar Addresses Meeting on Financial Policy

LD0205140696 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica
Slovensko Network in Slovak 1000 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We can now offer you some information on today's working meeting on current questions of Slovak financial policy. It was held in the Slovak radio building and organized by the Finance Ministry. Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar delivered the opening address. Bibiana Gunisova reports:

[Gunisova] [passage omitted] One characteristic of the Slovak Economy last year was the instability of results achieved.

[Begin Meciar recording] We had a surplus in the foreign trade balance, but January 1996 and the following months indicated that by the end of March the balance showed a deficit of 16.9 billion Slovak korunas.

As for the gross domestic product, the growth rate continues to rise but at the same time there is the issue of a manpower shortage along with a rapid rise in wages,

all of which can influence the favorable development of inflation which we are expecting during 1996: 6-8 percent. It is not going to be higher and it may be lower.

We predict the GDP growth to be 5 percent, which is realistic and achievable, but at the same time we are asking if we can make the economy grow faster. Assessing the results of 1995 we must see that negative phenomena are taking place. In banking, investment funds, and other institutions, we recorded worse economic results in December 1995 compared with 1994 by over 23 billion, which is a very negative phenomenon. We note that the standards of financial discipline are not increasing. In offsetting differences, we do not see a marked reduction in insolvency and, although there was a highly positive development in collecting taxes in 1995, there is also a growth of absolute figures for 1996. It seems at the moment, however, that many are happy with these results. [end recording]

The Slovak Government set out the following priorities in its policy statement for 1996:

[Begin Meciar recording] The government set out the following priorities in its economic policy: First, to continue the GDP growth. The government will continue to endeavor that the fundamental instruments of this growth will be in foreign trade and investments. When talking about these priorities, we can see that they are influenced by many factors. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Slovakia: Defense Minister Criticizes Arms Producers

AU0305083296 Bratislava SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA in Slovak 27 Apr 96 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Slovak Defense Minister Jan Sitek by Peter Valo; place and date not given: "State Interest Must Have Priority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Much has been written recently about the foreign activities of the Army of the Slovak Republic [ASR], particularly about the operation of our battalion in former Yugoslavia and the participation by our observers in missions in Angola. The world is starting to show interest in the products of the Slovak arms industry, and this interest can be seen at trade exhibitions. Minister of Defense Jan Sitek has done a great deal of traveling. He surely also knows the answer to the question: What would the present world buy from us?

[Sitek] First and foremost, the Zuzana cannon howitzer and the T-72-M2 Moderna tank. I personally insist that company and army tests on these two projects be completed by the start of the IDEE '96 exhibition, which

will take place in Trencin in October. Together with other projects, we want to present them not only at the Trencin exhibition of arms and weapons systems, but also at other events attended by many ministers and experts whose word counts.

[Valo] It is mainly on the basis of personal contacts that deals are struck and experiences exchanged.

[Sitek] Of course. We paid a visit to the Republic of South Africa [RSA], for example, which has already produced an echo. A company involving the RSA, Canada, and the Slovak Republic has been set up. We have already sold one Bozena minesweeper [odminovac] to Canada. The Angolan defense minister visited Slovakia recently and he, too, showed interest in minesweeping equipment. Angola, as a country rich in natural resources, is, from our viewpoint, an advantageous trading partner.

[Valo] How soon can we supply the minesweepers?

[Sitek] When we wanted to meet Canada's order quickly, we offered a minesweeper from our Army's arsenal, to speed up the deal. We have been given the promise by the Krupina Heavy Engineering Works that they would manufacture one for us within one month. It is sometimes mind-boggling how long it takes our companies to get going.

[Valo] Is the state able to force factories taking part in special production to fulfill what it demands of them?

[Sitek] Precisely that was the reason why we set up the [DMD] Holding, which should coordinate research, development, production, and trade in special technology. We are working on several projects at present. But research tasks keep being delayed. Deadlines are not being met, and this costs enormous sums of money. It is necessary to determine priorities according to urgency and to complete projects in which there is interest abroad. Following successful Army tests, we will then introduce them in our Army. We have on record several foreign orders at present; for example, from India, RSA, Bolivia, Peru, Canada, the Czech Republic, Malaysia, and other states.

[Valo] Will we be able to satisfy those demands?

[Sitek] Unfortunately, you are asking the wrong person. This sphere belongs to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy. What is being demanded of the Slovak Ministry of Defense will be fulfilled within the set deadline. Unfortunately, a system of overlapping interests still exists in Slovakia, which does not speed things up, but slows them down. At the same time, state interest should have priority.

[Valo] Does a similar overlap exist also in relations between the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff?

[Sitek] The chief of the ASR General Staff is subordinated to the minister of defense, to whom he is accountable for the performance of his post. The ASR is managed, and its building is ensured, by the Ministry of Defense. This should rule out any overlapping. We will have to eliminate it in areas where it still exists.

[Valo] There is still much talk about hazing in the Army.

[Sitek] I visit Army units without previous announcement. I meet soldiers without their commanders being present. We use both prevention and repression to combat it. Hazing has a declining tendency.

[Valo] How do you assess the state of patriotic awareness in the ASR?

[Sitek] The Slovak Republic has been independent for three years. Patriotism used to be suppressed during the federation. Historical experience used to be intentionally deformed. Thousands of teachers were brought up in this spirit. I see the main problem in their willingness to reeducate themselves, or, rather, in their unwillingness. Patriotic education starts in kindergarten. Other states have their defense philosophy based on patriotism. He who is not a patriot cannot be a good soldier.

[Valo] What are the prospects for our system of military education?

[Sitek] We inherited from the federation an extensive network of military educational establishments in Slovakia, which exceeded the needs of the newly built Army. We are therefore adjusting the network of schools to present conditions and requirements. We have signed

an agreement between the Defense Ministry and the Education Ministry, under which our students can study certain specializations at civilian schools, and vice versa. We have closed the secondary military schools at Martin, Zilina, Nitra, and Nove Mesto nad Vahom, and the closing down of the military high school at Banská Bystrica is being dealt with. Secondary and higher-level military schools will remain at Liptovský Mikuláš and Košice. These changes naturally evoke resentment among some people, but we consider it unnecessary to maintain our own schools just because the Army needs economists or other specialists.

[Valo] The minister of defense of the Czech Republic recently paid an official visit to Slovakia. How do you assess bilateral talks with your Czech opposite number?

[Sitek] The meeting took place within the framework of regular contacts between the ministers of defense. It was the first reciprocal visit by Vilem Holan after our meeting in Prague last year. We discussed matters related to the integration of both countries into NATO and touched on problems concerning the building of a new security architecture in the Central European region. We also spoke about bilateral military cooperation, within the framework of which 75 joint activities ought to be organized this year. At the close of the visit we signed two protocols. The first concerns cooperation in securing flight traffic and exchange of information about military flights in the border area between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, the second concerns cooperation in topographic services. Regarding the division of the military intelligence archives, we are still looking for best method for agreement.

B-H: Zenica Radio Calls Silajdic 'American Pawn'

*LD0305082396 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian
1240 GMT 2 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Zenica, 2 May (SRNA)—Muslim Radio Zenica today accused former Prime Minister Haris Silajdic of being "an American pawn in Bosnia" and of notifying "his backers" in Washington every time there has been an arms delivery from Tehran or Afghanistan.

A Radio Zenica commentator says that throughout the war, Silajdic passed on to the Pentagon "confidential data" about the activities of the Muslim political leadership and its plans to restructure troops in central Bosnia, thus enabling the CIA to "blackmail" the government in Sarajevo.

According to the radio, Silajdic's behavior caused "misunderstandings" in Muslim government-Washington relations, forcing the Muslims to make a difficult choice: either to distance themselves from Tehran, which gave "invaluable" assistance, or to cool relations with "arrogant Clinton."

"Silajdic now talks about foreign mercenaries in Bosnia, in other words, about something some circles in the West like to hear, although he is well aware of what the Islamic world has done for us. In any case, there were times when he himself toured the Arab world asking for new fighters," the commentator says.

Fikret Abdic, former member of the Presidency of former Bosnia-Herzegovina, has also been accused of "treason," i.e., cooperation with the Croatian intelligence service and with, as the commentator said, "the criminals from the so-called Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosna."

Zenica is the stronghold of Alija Izetbegovic, leader of Bosnia's Muslims, and his Party of Democratic Action. For years, Islamic countries, and especially Tehran and Saudi Arabia, have been supporting Izetbegovic's government politically, militarily, and financially.

B-H: Sacirbegovic Comments on Future of 'Federation Army'

*AU0305091096 Sarajevo DNEVNI AVAZ
in Serbo-Croatian 26 Apr 96 p 3*

[Interview with Muhamed Sacirbegovic, counselor of the Presidency president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations, by F. Cardzic; place and date not given: "The

United States Thinks There Can Be No Peace Without the Federation!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days ago, Zagreb VJESNIK published an interview with Gojko Susak, defense minister of the Republic of Croatia. Minister Susak said in the interview that the military formation of the Bosnian Croats could not be disputed, not even theoretically.

"Croatia wants joint action of the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, and none of the agreements we have signed have mentioned anything else," Gojko Susak said.

Muhamed Sacirbegovic, counselor of the Presidency president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, made a brief statement for DNEVNI AVAZ on this stance by the Croatian official—and since Susak is the defense minister, it can be considered the formal position of Zagreb.

To Look at the Plans

"The goal of the 'Train and Equip' program for the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina is to integrate the armies in the Federation. One would have to look at the plans to be able to say how long it would take to achieve that goal, but I do not think the intention is to have two separate military formations in the Federation for very long," Sacirbegovic said.

Under such terms, he said, the "Train and Equip" program will not help the force—the army—that is not ready to integrate.

"I have also informed Mr. James Perdue about such Croatian positions, and he assured me that Minister Susak had told him that he supports the integration of the two military formations into the army of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Now it is obvious that some things are still not clear," Sacirbegovic said.

[Cardzic] Do you think that all this will affect the adoption of the law on the defense of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina?

How the Money Is Used

[Sacirbegovic] It is ridiculous that a statement by an official of another state should influence our country, but clearly it does. We would like to solve that problem as soon as possible, because—finally—the goal is not to endanger any of the nations in the Federation. The goal is to support the interests of both nations through the concept of the joint army and coexistence in the Federation.

[Cardzic] What do you think is the basic problem?

[Sacirbegovic] It is obvious that the problem of how to define the Federation is still present. If the existence of the Federation means that one part of the country is still under the influence of another state—Croatia, in this case—then it is a big problem, not only for Bosnia-Herzegovina, but also for other countries that are included in the present processes in this region. Primarily, I am talking about the United States, which supports the Federation.

[Cardzic] How are the Muslim countries likely to react to the new problems, since they have promised a major financial contribution to arm the Federation army?

[Sacirbegovic] Yes. Some of the Muslim countries did ask what would happen with the Federation before they made any promises. Their second question was why they should support a program if the Federation is not likely to survive, and whether the arms they pay for might be used against the Bosnian Muslims.

[Cardzic] They expected answers to their questions, did they not?

[Sacirbegovic] We told them that the "Train and Equip" program did not only intend to provide financial support for the Federation, but also appropriate political support. Second, the United States convinced us that the Federation was the only way to peace. Third, the United States told us that, should the Federation fail, they will not allow the arms and other things provided to be given to those who did not support the Federation.

B-H: Ganic Visits Bugojno To Discuss Federation Setup

AU0205153796 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 2 May 96

[Report by Kemal Balkovic from Bugojno]

[FBIS Translated Text] An official delegation of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, led by Ejup Ganic, vice president of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and member of the Presidency of the Republic, visited Bugojno today. Kemal Balkovic reports from Bugojno:

[Balkovic] In addition to Ejup Ganic, the official delegation included, among others, Avdo Hebib, minister of the Federation's Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Division General Atif Dudakovic, who represented the General Staff of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army.

They held talks with the host, Dzevad Mlaco, head of the Cantonal Committee of the SDA [Party of Democratic Action], Radio in Serbo-Croatian, and mayor of the Bugojno municipality, on the completion of work on the implementation of the Federation's Constitution

and the transitional Municipal Council of Bugojno, in line with the decision of the international arbiter.

They concluded that the pace of setting up the Federation in the central Bosnian canton and the Bugojno municipality will be accomplished in the next 10 days.

B-H: Ganic Views 'Crude' Human Rights Violations in Livno

LD0205221496 Sarajevo Televizija Bosne i Hercegovine in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A federal delegation led by Ejup Ganic, vice president of the [Bosnia-Herzegovina] Federation, today visited Livno and Duvno [Tomislavgrad]. We have the report:

[Correspondent] The Bosnia-Herzegovina TV crew is in Livno today. We visited this area together with Bosnia-Herzegovina officials—Vice President Ejup Ganic, Interior Minister Avdo Hebib, and Division General Atif Dudakovic. [passage omitted]

After the visit we asked Federation Vice President Ejup Ganic about the results of today's talks and plans for the future.

[Begin recording] [Ganic] The main reason for our visit is the crude violation of human rights. The Bosniaks in this region have no right to their own religion. Not all the mosques have been destroyed, thank God, but muezzin's calls for prayers are no longer heard. Prayers are not allowed. This is a crude violation of human rights.

Next, all Bosniaks have been dismissed from state institutions. Their private business premises have been taken over. In brief, they have been denied their right to work. Children are not learning the Bosnian language or Bosnian history.

We made a number of decisions today—on the appointment of officers for human rights for this canton and on setting up police stations...

[Hebib, interrupting] In keeping with the national structure, on the basis of the 1991 census. In the same way we will set up police stations throughout the federation and the number of Bosniaks and Croats in the stations will correspond to the 1991 census. [end recording]

B-H: Muslims Remove 'Illegally Erected' Checkpoint

LD0205223796 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2026 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, May 2 (TANJUG)—The Muslim-Croat Federation Police in Bosnia, under

the pressure of the International Police Forces (IPTF), removed the checkpoint it had illegally erected Thursday morning on the Sarajevo-Trnovo road, southeastern Bosnia.

U.N. police spokesman Aleksandr Ivanko was quoted by the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA as saying that the commander of the Muslim Police informed IPTF and the peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia they were not welcome in the area and that Muslim police could not guarantee their safety.

The Muslim police threatened to block other roads and cut off telephone lines to Trnovo, located some 30 km southeast of Sarajevo.

International High Representative for Bosnia Carl Bildt asked on Thursday for a special meeting between representatives of the Muslim police and the police of Republika Srpska (Bosnian Serb entity) to resolve the problem.

Ivanko warned the situation could very quickly be out of control if a solution was not found in talks with the Muslim government.

The checkpoint, built in retaliation for the incident that occurred between Muslims and Serbs on the same road on Monday, remained open for some ten hours.

B-H: Sarajevo Authorities Arrest Bosniak War Crime Suspects

AU0205155096 Paris AFP in English
1536 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Hague, May 2 (AFP)—The Bosnian authorities in Sarajevo have arrested two Moslems wanted by the UN warcrimes tribunal here on suspicion of committing warcrimes, tribunal spokesman Christian Chartier said here Thursday [2 May].

The two men, Hazim Delic and Esad Landzo, are wanted in connection with alleged abuses committed at the Celebici detention centre near Konjic in central Bosnia, in 1992.

B-H: Trnovo Police Chief Says IFOR Not Welcome in Area

AU0205152096 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina
Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations has received a report that another person, wounded on Sunday in the tragic incident near Doboj, died in the Tuzla hospital yesterday. This was stated today at a news conference by UN spokesman in Sarajevo Alexander Ivanko. This brings the total of those killed in this incident to three.

Ivanko also said that the situation in Trnovo was deteriorating after Serb civilians several days ago prevented Bosniak refugees from visiting their homes and cemeteries in that town. The commissioner of the federal police station in Trnovo informed the international police yesterday afternoon that neither IFOR [Implementation Force] nor the international police forces are welcome in that area and that he cannot guarantee their safety, Ivanko said.

Alexander Ivanko said at today's news conference that Carl Bildt, the representative of the international community for Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the commissioner of the UN international police yesterday met with Hasan Muratovic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Momcilo Krajisnik, chairman of the Serb entity's parliament, to discuss the tragic events in the Doboj area. He said that both Muratovic and Krajisnik gave assurances that the police forces of both entities would cooperate with the investigation, and added that the heads of the police forces were given instructions to cooperate fully with the international police forces in this case.

Since the incident took place on the territory of the Serb entity, the authorities of this entity are primarily responsible for this investigation. The UN hopes that they will do everything in this case to make sure that justice has been satisfied, Ivanko said.

B-H: IFOR Considers Serb Gunmen Guilty of Doboj Killings

AU0205170996 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina
Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 2 May 96

[Report by Enes Osmanovic]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reason for today's news conference by the Swedish battalion in Ljubace, near Tuzla, was the tragic attack by Karadzic's supporters on Bosniaks in Sjenjina, near Doboj. Lieutenant Inge Palmberg has confirmed witnesses' statements about the murder of two and the wounding of seven Bosniaks. Enes Osmancevic reports:

[Osmancevic] Regarding the tragic events of three days ago in Sjenjina in the Doboj municipality, we have been ordered to carry out a thorough investigation and we have already embarked on it. This was stated by Lt. Inge Palmberg, deputy commander of the Swedish battalion, at a news conference at the command headquarters of this IFOR [Implementation Force] unit today. According to what we have found out so far, everything indicates that the two Bosniaks, Rizak (?Okic) and Ibrahim Osmanovic, were killed by pistol shots. Lt. Palmberg said. He said that he expected the official findings of the investigation to confirm this.

He also confirmed witnesses' statements that, in their attack on the Bosniaks who wanted to visit the graveyards, Karadzic's supporters used infantry weapons and hand-held bombs and grenades. Lt. Palmberg indicated that those responsible for this criminal act would be arrested and stated again that the attack by Karadzic's supporters was a first category terrorist act.

Asked by your reporter whether he was aware of the danger of Serb terrorism and whether IFOR members would remain indifferent to it, Palmberg said that analyses of all potential dangers and threats are being carried out.

It would certainly be good if we could have more members of the international police force, as well as better support from the local authorities and police, Lt. Palmberg said.

Your reporter then asked Lt. Palmberg whether he would investigate the conduct of a Nordic officer, who was present when a Bosniak was beaten up, and whether this officer's honor had allowed him to shake hands with the Serb terrorist after everything that had happened. He and his escorts had previously emptied their weapons to show them that they did not pose a danger to the terrorists. Lt. Palmberg answered that this officer had gone into a field which was considered mined to help the people in danger, and that his handshakes with the Serb terrorists need not mean a gesture of friendship or approval.

After the news conference, the impression exists that the Swedes are much more specific than the Command of Sector North of the international forces. Judging by everything, the news conference was called to clarify some inaccuracies that had appeared in the North Multinational Division Command's statements which open possibilities for misinterpretation.

B-H: Bildt Blames Karadzic for Blocking Peace Process

AU0205150196 Paris AFP in English
1433 GMT 2 May 96

[Report by Jacques Charmelot]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, May 2 (AFP)—Carl Bildt, the top civilian peace official in Bosnia Thursday [2 May] accused indicted Bosnian Serb war criminals of blocking the peace process, as the death toll in clashes between returning Moslem refugees and Serbs climbed to three.

Speaking in Athens, Bildt singled out Serb leader Radovan Karadzic for holding up the normalisation process in Bosnia-Herzegovina, launched by the signing of the Dayton peace accord last December.

Karadzic and his military commander General Ratko Mladic, have been indicted on genocide charges by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, over the suspected massacre of thousands of civilians in Srebrenica, a Moslem enclave in eastern Bosnia overrun by Serb forces last July.

Bildt said the Serbs were imposing a form of "self-sanctions," not "only to the detriment of the peace but to the Serbs of Bosnia, because they suffer from this situation."

Citing a minor example, he said "even for a bus service between Ilidza, near Sarajevo, and Lucavica, over six or seven kilometres (four miles), we have significant opposition from the RS (Republika Srpska), even for a bus."

Bildt ruled out a political role for former Serb leaders, adding a political solution to the problem had to be found.

Meanwhile in Sarajevo, UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko said a third person had died following clashes Monday between hostile Serbs and 75 Moslem refugees trying to visit family graves in the Serb-held northern town of Doboj.

"The UN has received a report that another victim of the events on Monday died on Wednesday at Tuzla Hospital, bringing the death toll to three," Ivanko told journalists.

The victim's body showed traces of a mine blast and gunshot injuries, while autopsies on the two other victims showed they had been shot dead. Seven others were injured in the same incident.

The killings, branded murder by the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR), came amid mounting controversy over IFOR's failure to enforce freedom of movement between the Moslem-Croat federation and Serb republic created by the Dayton accord.

An investigation into Monday's killings was launched Wednesday, primarily conducted by Serb police. A caustic Ivanko said that "bearing in mind their previous record, the UN hopes that this time they will do their utmost to insure that justice is done."

Bildt secured just such an undertaking from senior Serb official Momcilo Krajisnik, but in private western officials remain sceptical.

In a meeting Wednesday attended by Bildt, Krajisnik and Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic agreed to better coordinate visits by Moslems to Serb-run territory, though none were scheduled Thursday.

Visits by Moslems to villages from which they were chased during the Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaigns which characterised Bosnia's almost four-year war have become a critical test of confidence between the two ethnic groups, ahead of the return of the 2.4 million people displaced by the war.

Dayton provides for the refugees' return, a move blocked by the Serbs in a clear violation of the agreement.

IFOR spokesman Major Simon Haselock said "we call on the Moslems to act with restraint" and urged the "Serbs to honour their commitment to the peace agreement by facilitating these visits in a reasonable fashion, and by ensuring they do all they can to prevent the possibility of further violence."

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said "we cannot expect IFOR to shoot refugees through across former confrontation lines," saying "there has to be an agreement from both sides."

"Obviously there is a huge reluctance by everyone, especially the Bosnian Serbs, to allow former enemies into those areas," he said, adding that the refugees' return was "one of the core issues of the whole peace."

B-H: Krajisnik Says Serb Leaders Ready To Defer to Belgrade

*AU0205132296 Paris AFP in English
1302 GMT 2 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, May 2 (AFP)—Republika Srpska (RS) leaders are ready to step down if their patron Serbia wants them to, the speaker of the Bosnian Serb entity's assembly said in an interview with the BETA news agency broadcast on Thursday.

It was the first time a Bosnian Serb leader has linked possible changes at the top of the RS with the political demands of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who signed the Dayton peace accords on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs.

Previously, the leadership of the Bosnian Serb entity had insisted that it was up to the electorate to choose their political leaders.

"We do not want to carry out a policy which goes against that of Serbia and Montenegro. We hope to co-operate closely with their leaders and, if it is necessary, those of us who occupy high positions in the RS will accept to be replaced by whoever it may be, on condition that the RS should be preserved," speaker Momcilo Krajisnik said.

According to the agency, he refused to say whether Milosevic had called for the ousting of those accused of warcrimes by the International Criminal Tribunal based in the Hague, such as Bosnian Serb political and military leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic.

Under the terms of the Dayton accords, the two men cannot take up positions of responsibility in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

However, Milosevic has never directly called for their ouster, despite the fact that the Belgrade press, which is close to the government, has repeatedly said it is vital that Karadzic and Mladic should go.

Krajisnik insisted that the RS leadership had "nothing to criticise" about Belgrade's attitude towards it.

"We all want the Dayton accord to be fulfilled. We hope the sanctions (against Belgrade) will be definitively lifted and peace maintained.... There is no difference of opinion between us and the leadership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," he said.

Asked about his personal political future, Krajisnik said: "I don't want power and this is the last thing I will do.... I will do everything possible to ensure I no longer take part in politics."

Krajisnik said it was "useless to predict" the results of elections scheduled to be held in Bosnia-Herzegovina before the middle of September, but he said Karadzic's Democratic Party "would obtain the greatest number of votes."

Karadzic has accused Sarajevo authorities of organising the movement of Bosnian refugees through RS territory and thereby provoking conflict.

"We are very concerned by the passive attitude of the international community and consider that some forces are thereby trying to complicate the situation in order to show the need to maintain IFOR (the NATO-led multinational peacekeeping force) beyond 1996," Krajisnik said.

B-H: Krajisnik Denies RS Leadership's 'Readiness' To Resign

*LD0205173796 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian
1650 GMT 2 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 2 May (SRNA)—Momcilo Krajisnik, president of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic People's Assembly, today described as fabricated the AFP report that the Serb Republic leaders are ready to step down if Belgrade requests this.

In a statement for SRNA, the Serb Republic speaker warned about the possibility of AFP making "an accidental or a deliberate mistake" when it interpreted his statement to the Belgrade-based BETA news agency about the Serb Republic leaders' stances on the forthcoming elections.

"The most important issue for the current leaders is the survival of the Serb Republic, and we will always be ready to cede power to those who will enjoy the people's trust and who will preserve the Serb Republic," Krajisnik specified. He warned that it was a mistake to interpret his statement as readiness on the part of Serb Republic leaders to step down at Belgrade's request.

"This is total fabrication and we'd like to believe it is accidental, but it can be also malicious and give a wrong picture," explained the People's Assembly speaker.

"It is true that I said we had a coordinated policy and fairly good relations with the Serbian and Montenegrin leaderships, and that there was no reason for a rift since our policies concerning the implementation of the Dayton agreement coincide on the whole," said Krajisnik. He concluded that the people of the Serb Republic would decide who their legitimate representative would be.

"The people elect their own leaders and leadership and they will be the ones to decide to whom they will entrust the Serb Republic," Krajisnik said in conclusion.

B-H: RS's Kasagic Says IFOR Presence Reduces Tensions

LD0205135996 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1123 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Banja Luka, 2 May (TANJUG)—The Bosnian Serb prime minister [Rajko Kasagic] had talks today with Britain's Major General Michael Jackson, commander of Sector Southeast, on further cooperation between the [Bosnian] Serb Republic [RS] and IFOR [Implementation Force]. Since yesterday, Jackson and his headquarters have been in the vicinity of Banja Luka.

Kasagic said: "The British are our great friends and have been completely neutral in this war, and have represented the truth."

"I told Gen. Jackson that I am grateful to the British Government and businesspeople in London for the cooperation they have offered," the RS prime minister said. "I believe that it is our joint view that IFOR's presence reduces tensions and the risk of war, despite the fact that everyone is convinced there will be no more war."

B-H: Kasagic: Unconstitutional To Hand Over War Crimes Suspects

LD0305111496 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 0934 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sarajevo, 3 May (SRNA)—The [Bosnian] Serb Republic is not refusing to cooperate with the Hague tribunal, but handing over alleged "war crimes suspects" is not in accordance with its Constitution, Serb Republic [RS] Prime Minister Rajko Kasagic said in Pale today.

After a meeting with representatives of the international crisis group, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha, Kasagic said that "a nation which hands over its own leaders, who have stood at its head and have prevented genocide, has no future."

"We can cooperate in all other spheres, but what the international crisis group is demanding is not envisaged under the Dayton agreement," Kasagic said.

The prime minister said he is interested in the assistance of this group, which is led by U.S. Senator George Mitchell, in implementing the Dayton agreement and stressed that "cooperation with the Hague tribunal is a continuing issue." [passage omitted]

B-H: Serb Commander Demands IFOR Troops Undergo Medical Checks

AU0305061396 Paris AFP in English 0605 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doboj, Bosnia-Herzegovina, May 3 (AFP)—A Bosnian Serb military commander has said IFOR [Implementation Force] soldiers must undergo medical checks before he will allow them to carry out weapons inspections, an IFOR spokesman told AFP Friday.

The Serb commander in the northern town of Doboj sent a letter to the peace implementation force (IFOR) unit in the town demanding a "short medical examination" for IFOR soldiers before they visit his military sites, because they could be carrying "infectious diseases."

"All IFOR soldiers who are to visit warehouses and other VRS (Bosnian Serb) [Bosnian Serb Army] facilities in the future must undergo a short medical examination on the spot in order to ascertain if they are carrying, or are sick with, some infectious diseases," said the letter delivered to IFOR in Doboj earlier this week.

IFOR should "announce inspection visits in advance in order that we can have a doctor on the spot," the letter added.

Under the terms of the Dayton peace treaty, the NATO-led force in Bosnia is obliged to inspect weapons storage sites of the Bosnian Serb, Moslem and Croat forces. To date, all the former warring factions have cooperated with the inspections.

IFOR spokesman Major Pasi Karonen told AFP the IFOR battalion in Doboj, which was the scene of a violent clash between Moslem refugees and hostile Serbs earlier this week, would not be put off by the letter.

"This does not affect our mission," Karonen said. "We will continue inspections routine exactly as before."

IFOR was not willing to name the Serb commander who sent the letter.

B-H: UN Official Says Serbs Fail To Sign Document Preventing Clashes

AU0205151296 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Bosnian Serb authorities have still not signed the document on the prevention of ethnic clashes during the refugees' visit to their homes in (?Bosnia-Herzegovina), stated UNHCR spokesman Chris Janowski today. The minister of the refugees of the Serb entity refused on Tuesday (30 April) to sign this document, but Momcilo Krajisnik stated yesterday that they could accept the directives and the policy of the United Nations, Chris Janowski said.

We still do not have a signature on this document and it is still unclear whether Krajisnik's pledge means that they will sign the document. We may find out that this afternoon or tomorrow, Janowski said. The officials of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina have signed the document, Janowski said.

B-H: Serbs Release 4 Croat POW's in Pale

LD0205161996 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1543 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 2 May (SRNA)—On the basis of the decision reached by The Hague

Tribunal, legal authorities in the Serb Republic released four Croats in Pale today. The four had been accused of committing war crimes against the Serbs.

Dragan Bulajic, the chairman of the State Commission for the POW Exchange, confirmed to SRNA that the following Croats had been released: Goran Milic, Dubravko Krizelj, Mate Leko, and Drago Toto.

"Despite the release, the Bosnian Serb authorities will continue their investigation in order to collect further evidence," Bulajic said.

He added that "intensive work will continue on the release of the Serbs held in the prisons of the Croat-Muslim Federation and the Republic of Croatia."

Bulajic also said that "there is evidence of another 20 to 200 Serbs still held in Croatian prisons."

Dragan Podinic, assistant justice minister of the Serb Republic, was present at today's release of the four Croats.

B-H: Serb Police Fire at Private Car; No Casualties

LD0205145196 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A new incident occurred this morning on the Serb-controlled section of the Orasje-Tuzla road, near the village of Pelagicevo, when two Serb police vehicles tried to stop a private car. As the driver of the private car showed no intention of stopping, the Serb policemen fired shots with their guns. Fortunately, no one in the car was hurt, but considerable damage was done to the car.

The IFOR [Implementation Force] base near Brcko announced that over the next few days IFOR will step up control on the Orasje-Tuzla road, especially its intersection with the Brcko-Banja Luka road. IFOR warned civilians to use the road in daylight hours only, since as night falls criminals step up their activity.

Croatia: President Tudjman Addresses Okucani Rally

LD0205212996 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0925 GMT 2 May 96

[Address by President Franjo Tudjman at a rally in Okucani to mark the first anniversary of the Croatian Army's Operation Flash in western Slavonia—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Men and women of Croatia, ladies and gentlemen, chivalrous members of the Croatian Army and Croatian police forces, esteemed participants in the homeland war, dear youth of Croatia:

Only a year has passed since the lightening campaign that liberated western Slavonia and inflicted one of the first death blows on the battlefield to Greater Serbian imperialism and Serb terrorism. Defense Minister Susak has said that history will record this military victory and others, but dear participants in this celebration, allow me to remind all of you, all Croatian citizens, that military victories alone have not been enough in Croatian history and that much more had to be learned from the experiences of Croatia's difficult, arduous, and painful history in order to arrive at these military victories and the restoration of a free and independent Croatian state, which we lost way back in the 12th century.

We had to learn from the experiences not only how to arrive at these victories but also how to consolidate these victories for the future, how to ensure the future of the Croatian people and the Croatian state. Many people, unfortunately, are not aware of this, and that is why I ask you to allow me on this occasion to recall certain facts, the fact that, from the times of Trpimir, Tomislav, Kresimir, and Zvonimir [early Croatian kings], we did not have an independent and free Croatian state, and it was not only others who were to blame. International circumstances were unfavorable, but we also had ignorance and lack of awareness in government after government. If the Croatian nobility had been able and had known how to agree on a ruler from the ranks of the nation, we would not have had to enter any kind of pact or covenant nor bind Croatia to Hungary and later to other multinational communities.

It should be remembered that 600 years ago, in 1397, the bloody Krizevci assembly took place, at which the Croatian nobility fought among themselves over who should rule Croatia, and thus surrendered Croatia once again to foreign rule.

It should be remembered that Croatian princes and dukes of the Zrinski family in the 16th and 17th century won great military victories against the Ottoman Turks, and the Frankopani [feudal family] won victories against

the Venetians, and Europe applauded these victories, but failed to give its support for a free Croatian state.

At that time, in the face of these bitter experiences, they [the Frankopani and Zrinski families] took some steps that were not in keeping with international circumstances, steps that were not sufficient or even sensible [they plotted against the Viennese court in the late 17th century], and this led them to their deaths in Becko Novo Mesto [Wiener Neustadt].

But the Europe that applauded these victories was, as it is today, preoccupied with its own problems, its own internal contradictions, and its own views on how to control this or that state—whether France, Great Britain, Germany, or Italy—and on how to exploit Croatia in its own interests and not in Croatian interests. And many of those Croats who are on the political scene today forget this, and that is why I am speaking about this.

True, we won military victories with Operations Flash and Storm, and these will be written about in the history books in golden letters, but we face the no less difficult task—after the establishment of the Croatian state, after these military victories, after the winning of Croatia's international recognition—of not allowing these victories and sacrifices to have been in vain, and of not allowing internal division and international rivalry to bring into question the future of the Croatian state and the Croatian people.

In the days of the disintegration of the Yugo-communist system and the unnatural Yugoslav community, it is clear that all our forces were concentrating on how to establish our armed forces and how to establish Croatian authority. Naturally, in these circumstances we were not able to vote... [pauses] and we were not able, and did not have the power, to resolve all the other questions of internal economic development. We had to establish a Croatian state that no one in the world wanted, and, of course, some of those people who had links with Yugo-communist Yugoslavia and the socialist system were also against it.

At that time, of course, we were able to achieve all those victories through our policy of reconciliation. We said we did not want any kind of revanchism. We called for the reconciliation of all Croats, and for the establishment and development of the Croatian state.

Today, now that we have successfully completed the main tasks of the liberation of Croatian territory, now that we have an internationally recognized Croatia, we nevertheless face the games being played by these same states, big states, in the EU and in the world, that are planning such a future for the Croatian state. [sentence as heard] Today we must be conscious of what I said

a little while ago and not allow internal division to generate a future for the Croatian state and people that would be a return to the old [word indistinct].

Our task today is to secure the future of the Croatian state, and the only way to do this is to strengthen the internal democratic order. We can achieve this by removing all weaknesses, all abuse, and all criminal phenomena, which the war and this transition from a socialist system to a free market system inevitably brought with it.

Our task today is to ensure in all areas the consistent implementation of our constitutional and legal system. But, you see, there are people on the Croatian political scene who do not respect the constitutional and legal system we created with the establishment of an independent Croatian state and the sacrifices we made during the homeland war. This can be seen from the Zagreb case [reference to the disagreement over who controls local authorities in Zagreb].

We, who were responsible with all of you and with most of the Croatian people for the establishment of a democratic, independent, and sovereign Croatian state, and who were the prime movers in adopting the constitutional and legal system, are the ones most responsible for the preservation of this constitutional and legal system. So we have our laws. We have the responsibility to preserve and allow to function the authorities we now have for the first time in an independent and democratically elected Croatian state. [sentence as heard]

And if someone, say from one of these associations, says that this is illegal, they have the right of appeal in the constitutional court, and the constitutional court would pass judgment. So we call on these people to respect this constitutional and legal system and bear in mind that it is only the strength of the democratic system that can ensure the future of the Croatian people and the Croatian state, which is the guarantor of the Croatian people's future. And when they speak about... [applause]

Apart from those experiences about which I have spoken, allow me to remind you of some other things from both our history and world history. It was not democracy that facilitated Hitler's rise to power and Nazism in Europe. Rather, it was the weakness of democracy in both Germany and Europe that allowed this—the weaknesses of the democratic regimes in both Germany and Europe that did not know how to prevent the extremists who prevailed at that time. They were underestimated at the beginning, but they ended up controlling Germany and Europe.

Let me remind you of something else from our experience. There is no doubt that Stepan Radic's Croatian Republican and Peasant Party [as heard] played a positive role in the history of the Croatian people. Radic's party led to the inception of Croatian national consciousness among the broad masses of the Croatian people. Between the two wars, from 1918 to 1941, it was the main and leading Croatian party, and the fate of the Croatian people lay in its hands.

But what happened? In the crucial events that began in 1941, its leadership lost the battle. It did not know how to play the role that might have secured the future of the Croatian people in World War II and afterward. It is because the leadership of this party, which was the strongest Croatian party, even the strongest party in history at the time and that had played a positive role up to that time... [pauses] it is because they lost out that the numerically small communists and the numerically small Ustashe led by Pavelic were able to play the role they did. This also led to the defeats the Croatian people suffered not only in World War II but also afterward as well.

Dear friends, citizens of Croatia, it is for this reason that we drew the conclusions we did. We will not allow things to be repeated so that a party like the Croatian Democratic Union [HDZ], which has led the Croatian people—and a majority of the Croatian people followed it—in establishing Croatia, we will not allow such a party to be destroyed or its leadership to succumb to certain people who do not represent the majority but who could play a negative role, just as those whom I have mentioned played a negative role.

I have already said that they are waging psychological war against Croatia. This psychological war had been prepared in different foreign centres that did not want the independent sovereign Croatia. It had also been prepared in the centers that were linked to the former Yugoslav unitarian communist system.

Various deceptions had been forced upon our people, from the notion that the party that begat the idea to create the sovereign democratic independent Croatian state had dangerous intentions, that Herzegovinians were a millstone around Croatia's neck, and that our policies in Bosnia were wrong, to the notion that fraud ruled today.

Yes, there is fraud, but it is least present among those who are most responsible for the creation of the Croatian state. I have not created the sovereign and democratic Croatian state with rogues and spineless people but with people with ideals about Croatian freedom.

The fact that in these crucial times there appeared the abuse of power and crime... [pauses] they are more common outside leadership ranks than among them.

But we have already, after the victories of the last year, launched a decisive action to establish the legal system.

In my report to the Croatian parliament, at the Presidential Council sessions, and by a series of measures taken by the Croatian Government, we have started to root out the irregularities, the abuse, and the crime.

But, as I have mentioned, we face actions by opposition ranks that do not honor the constitutional and legal system. There are also individuals in the ruling party [Croatian Democratic Union] who would like to be exempt from the laws we have created ourselves.

Myself, just like the whole Croatian leadership, the Croatian Government, leadership of the Croatian parliament, we are determined to make Croatia the state of all freedoms and democracy, but also the state with the legal system, where everyone is liable to abide by the law and the constitution and to fulfill his obligations toward the Croatian state.

The Croatian state will be as we ourselves make it. And the objections that we face problems—economic, social, and others... [pauses] of course we have problems, which country in the world does not have any? Even those with centuries of independent development behind them, those that have not had such wars and revolutionary changes that we have undertaken. Apart from the political and war miracles we have achieved to the surprise and admiration of the whole world, we have really achieved in the economic sphere something that makes the world wonder how it was possible.

It was possible because of the unity of the majority of the Croatian people. It was possible to achieve something that even the greatest world economic experts commented upon, saying: in this sphere you have achieved your currency, you have cut inflation, you have a basis for possibly the best prospects for development of all former communist countries only because you have had the leadership that knows what it wants.

And I can assure you, dear Croatian men and women, members of the Croatian Armed Forces, you will not be let down. We shall not jeopardize everything we have achieved by united efforts of the Croatian people and its victims and that has brought to Croatia the international prominence it has not had since the times of Tomislav and Kresimir [10th century Croatian kings]. But we must preserve the unity, remember how we created this unity, and not allow the recurrence of what had prevented us throughout history from having the

sovereign and independent Croatian state since the 12th century until now.

I am assuring you that the people who knew how to create a military power of this caliber, who knew how to pass a constitution whose democratic principles are paralleled by only a few other constitutions, who knew how to make progress in the face of very unfavorable circumstances in the world, the world that wanted to preserve Yugoslavia and did not want to see an independent Croatia—these people and leaders who, together with all of you, have made these achievements—will know how to solve all future problems in the development of economy, culture, and all other fields, in the interest of the Croatian people and the Croatian state. We will know how to deal with problems in the framework of reconstruction and the return of refugees, within the task of demographic renewal and ensuring the return of Croatian people dispersed throughout the world where there are almost as many of us as here in the homeland. We will know how to do it in the framework of all these tasks, which are complex and difficult. But all this is a trifle compared to what we have achieved. So, we must have faith in ourselves, in every Croatian individual in every municipality, every town, every county, and we must solve our problems. We must know that no one else except ourselves—in certain villages and towns as well as at the level of the state—only our own stupidity, our own divisions can undermine us. But we will not allow this to happen because we have enough experience, enough know-how, and a very high level of unity among the Croatian people on which we can build our future. Long live our only and eternal Croatia.

Croatia: Budisa 'Ill at Ease' as Tudjman Addresses Crowd

AU0205183696 Paris AFP in English
1815 GMT 2 May 96

[Report by Tessa Fras]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Okucani, Croatia, May 2 (AFP)—Croatian President Franjo Tudjman attacked opposition parties Thursday, accusing them of creating "internal divisions" in Croatia and comparing them to Germany's former Nazi party. [passage omitted]

The president was sharing the podium with Drazen Budisa, the deputy speaker of the Croatian parliament and an opposition leader, who was visibly ill at ease.

Tudjman flew into Okucani by helicopter and was greeted by a fly-past of six jets. The stadium was filled by rows of men and women soldiers, who stood in the bright sunshine watched by a crowd of a few thousand civilians. [passage omitted]

In nearby Stara Gradiska, the anniversary caused another ceremony to be postponed.

The commander of NATO's ground forces in Bosnia, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker, opened a bridge across the Sava River Thursday, linking the Croatian town of Stara Gradiska with the Bosnian town of Bosanska Gradiska. [passage omitted]

Asked by AFP what effect the bridge would have on freedom of movement, Walker said that there was now a physical link where previously there had been none, "but that does not mean that the psychological barrier has yet been overcome." [passage omitted]

Ante Kikic, the Croatian mayor of Stara Gradiska, attended the opening ceremony but no Serb representative was present and Walker received a frosty reception from a Serb policeman when he walked over the bridge into Bosanska Gradiska.

Croatia: E. Slavonia's Hadzic Asks Washington for Aid

AU0205202696 Beli Manastir Srpski Radio Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 1 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The senior officials of the Serb province of eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem [Serb variant of Srijem] have been meeting with international mediators on an almost daily basis. The aim of these talks is objectively to introduce the international public to the current situation and the modalities of the Erdut agreement's implementation. This was the aim of the meeting between Goran Hadzic, the president of our province, and a delegation from the State Department and the Pentagon. After yesterday's talks with the U.S. delegation, Mr. Hadzic stated the following:

[Begin Hadzic recording] I expressed our readiness, as well as the readiness of our assembly and our government, to fully comply with the Erdut agreement, as the assembly has already decided, as well as our determination to maintain contact with UNTAES [UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia] and Mr. Klein. They were pleased with that.

I emphasized and attempted to ask for economic aid, since the Serb people in this area have met all their obligations, both through the agreement and all our other agreements, while (?the international community) has not given a single dollar to help. The (?international community) should become involved in helping our people and make the peace process smoother in the area, so that the people can (?be at peace) and enjoy prosperity.

They understood the problem, and I am sure they will help us so that the people in the area, apart from prosperity and peace, [words indistinct] and that the area open up [words indistinct] and we become part of modern Europe, which is what we deserve. [end recording]

Croatia: Stanimirovic Predicts 'Mass Returns' in May-Jun

AU0305060696 Beli Manastir Srpski Radio Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 1 May 96

[Interview with Dr. Vojislav Stanimirovic, prime minister of the "Serb Province of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem" by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been announced that the Executive Council of the Serb Province of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem, which was appointed at the second session of the provincial assembly last week, will hold the second session late this week, at which several measures of general interest to all the citizens in our province will be considered.

The same was done at the first session. Dr. Vojislav Stanimirovic, the prime minister of our province, commented on the first session, saying that he had to emphasize all the government members were professional, loyal, and determined to carry out all their tasks better and more responsibly.

[Stanimirovic] Yes, I promised that the members of the Executive Council of the Serb Province of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem would all be professional, courageous, and wise persons. At this moment, we need such people the most.

It was evident at the session in Beli Manastir that they were accepted unanimously. I kept my promise, and I really believe they are (?the most professional) people, who can, at this moment, make the greatest contribution on all the burning issues in the area.

[Correspondent] No one has addressed the public—the citizens of our province—and told them to work and live normally, and to not leave everything they have in the house and the like. There have been such cases, and perhaps this is an opportunity for you to say something about that.

[Stanimirovic] You have witnessed this negative trend of people moving out—it was mostly the people who had been given temporary homes in the area—fearing the arrival of UNTAES [UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia] forces and [words indistinct] police forces. These people took some of their property

out of this area, stored it in houses and sheds throughout Serbia, and then returned to their temporary homes.

We believe there is no need for such things, and that it only serves the Croats and Croatia. It is a failure; we believe everyone should return together with their material goods, since our life is here—the only way we can survive is here, and only if all of us are here. We must bear in mind that, in May or June, there will be an action in Serbia involving the return of our people to their homes, and considering that Croatia will not easily accept our peoples' mass returns to their homes, their [word indistinct] stronghold will be in this area. We will take care of humanitarian aid for them, and provide the minimum necessary for them to survive, and I must say I think our main task is to dedicate ourselves to work—one should not move out. We have had sufficient guarantees from the international community that we can stay here, which is our goal, as well as Serbia's goal and the goal of the international community, headed by Mr. Klein.

Such sporadic, individual displacement is only in the interests of Croatia, since the international community does not condemn it as ethnic cleansing [words indistinct] to move out.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you, and I wish you and your team much success in your work [words indistinct].

[Stanimirovic] Thank you very much for your interest. We hope to see the people from the executive council on our television screens more often. We now have a secretary for information, who will become more actively involved. For your information, one of our first obligations is to put together teams for Beli Manastir Television and Vukovar Television, and to [words indistinct] from the financial point of view, for these programs to have [words indistinct], which our people expect of us.

Croatia: Hadzic Criticizes 'Uncontrolled Migration' to FRY

AU0205125096 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian
2 May 96 p 2

[HINA report: "Hadzic Threatens Job Dismissals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vukovar, 30 April—Goran Hadzic, president of the so-called Srijem-Baranja district, stated that the biggest problem was the uncontrolled migration of the Serbs who transferred all their property into the houses across the Danube River [in the FRY] and then returned. Vukovar Radio, which is controlled by the occupying authorities, reported on Wednesday. Urging them to return the property, because this was "in the interests of the Serbs' survival in their

ancient homes," Hadzic threatened that they would lose their jobs in local companies if they did not. He assessed the agricultural situation as critical, as there was no spring sowing at all, which he explained with great uncertainty regarding the implementation of the Erdut agreement. "To stay is a matter of life and death now," Hadzic said, adding that the only thing left for them was to "roll up their sleeves" after the May Day celebration.

Croatia: IFOR Opens Bridge Over Sava to Northern Bosnia

AU0205160896 Paris AFP in English
1556 GMT 2 May 96

[Report by Sonia Bakaric]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stara Gradiska, Croatia, May 2 (AFP)—Peace implementation force (IFOR) troops opened another vital lifeline into Bosnia on Thursday [2 May], officially inaugurating a bridge linking this southern Croatia town to its Serb-held namesake in northern Bosnia.

With the sun beating down on rolling fields either side of the ebbing River Sava, which divides the two former Yugoslav republics, IFOR ground commander General Michael Walker officially opened the bridge, which was destroyed in the early exchanges of the Bosnian conflict.

"The bridge that you see before you is another milestone in the opening up of the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina," Walker said as a small group of Croats here and a crowd of around 100 Bosnian Serbs in Bosanska Gradiska across the river, looked on.

"Physically it's possible to move where it was not possible before," Walker said, adding nonetheless that "that does not mean that the psychological barrier has yet been overcome."

The bridge, which used to be known by the ubiquitous "Brotherhood and Unity" tag and which has been rebaptised "the Bridge of Hope," was destroyed by Croatian forces on June 2, 1992, to prevent rampant Bosnian Serbs from using it to link up with their brethren in southern Croatia.

It becomes the second structure to be reopened across the River Sava after another bridge further east at Brcko was reinaugurated at the end of March.

But despite the obvious bonuses of a second open bridge across the river, the direct link between Croatian territory and the Bosnian Serb entity in Bosnia could throw up more problems than solutions in the short term.

The Serbs insisted firstly that the inauguration be put back a day from Wednesday, the first anniversary

of Croatia's lightning offensive which drove Croatian Serbs out of western Slavonia.

That battle heralded a series of Serb defeats in Croatia and Bosnia through the summer of 1995, and its anniversary stood as a fresh reminder to the Serbs that the bridge may be opening a can of worms rather than a new supply route for landlocked Bosnia.

No Serb official attended the opening, while the Serb crowd in Bosanska Gradiska observed the scene with evident suspicion.

Bosanska Gradiska lies on the main road between Sarajevo and the Croatian capital Zagreb, much used before the war. The road passes through the largest Serb-held town in Bosnia, Banja Luka.

The 252-metre (830-foot) bridge, which weighs 130 tonnes, was restored by a Hungarian IFOR unit, and will replace a floating pontoon bridge further up the river, which IFOR has used to ship in supplies to its 60,000-strong force in Bosnia.

Since the bridge was blown, civilians wishing to cross the Sava have had to take a ferry crossing at Zupanja,

downstream from Bosanska Gradiska, entailing long delays in civilian and commercial traffic between the two neighbouring countries.

But there will be no respite in the immediate future as, for the time being, the newly-restored, metal-grey structure will only be open to IFOR troops and humanitarian agencies.

"We will...encourage the authorities to come to a speedy resolution about what controls are absolutely essential and who may move freely across the bridge," Walker said, implying that a local agreement between Serbs and Croats ensuring security could open the way for civilians to use the bridge.

"It is of course IFOR policy that this bridge is available to be used by whom so ever would wish to," he said, adding that the bridge could stand as an example of freedom of movement, which has broken down in parts of northern Bosnia in recent weeks.

"I hope that everybody will see the bridge as a symbol of opening up the country to freedom of movement," Walker said.

Poland: President Advocates New European-Style Constitution

LD0305093396 Warsaw Third Program Radio
Network in Polish 0800 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Aleksander Kwasniewski has met representatives of the Constitutional Commission of the National Assembly. Artur Makara reports:

[Begin Makara recording] The meeting commenced with a brief reminder of the historical events which led up to the adoption of the 3 May Constitution [liberal constitution adopted in Poland in 1791]. Deputy Marek Mazurkiewicz, chairman of the Constitutional Commission, spoke about the progress that had been made on drawing up the new constitution stressing that this work might be finished as early as the beginning of next year with the holding of a constitutional referendum. The Polish Republic today faces different challenges than those of 200 years ago, said President Aleksander Kwasniewski in his speech. However, in just the same way as then, Poland urgently needs a constitution which is the result of a farsighted and wise compromise between the political elites. Our country is a normal European country which should have a normal and modern constitution in just the same way as other European countries, said the president. Stability and order based on the adherence to law could not be guaranteed without a constitution. What is more, the very existence of a democratic and law-governed state without a cohesive and democratic constitution might be a doubtful proposition. The construction of a democratic state still requires that many legal leftovers of totalitarianism and authoritarianism are overcome. This also requires the creation of constitutional guarantees which would ensure that a return to the undemocratic practices of a system which Poland rejected seven years ago would never be possible, said President Aleksander Kwasniewski. This is Artur Makara reporting from the Royal Palace. [end recording]

Poland: Cimoszewicz Departs for Baltic Council Meeting

LD0305095896 Warsaw Third Program Radio
Network in Polish 0800 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz has gone to Sweden to attend a conference of heads of government of the Baltic Council. Here is Mira Nowakowska:

[Begin Nowakowska recording] Before leaving by air the prime minister said that during the conference he would be talking with the heads of government of the Baltic states and with Russian Prime Minister Viktor

Chernomyrdin and Jacques Santer, chairman of the European Commission. Cimoszewicz said he expected that during discussions with the Russian prime minister matters connected with the free trade zone in the Kaliningrad Region would be cleared up. The prime minister said he wanted an agreement to be signed in the near future regulating the form of cooperation in this region. Poland wanted to increase trade turnover with Russia and we are particularly interested in greater exports, said Cimoszewicz, while the talks with Jacques Santer would deal with the schedule for expanding the European Union and with the intergovernmental conference [in progress in Turin]. Cimoszewicz said it was important that Poland should not only be informed about the course of the conference but also that it should be able to informally influence the decisions taken during this conference. This is Mira Nowakowska from the military airport. [end recording]

Poland: Growing Influence of Peasant Party on Media Noted

WS0305100696 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY
in Polish 30 Apr-1 May 96 p 2

[Article by Rafal Szubstarski: "The Peculiar Twists of Public Life, or How the Peasants Are Ruling the Media"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Unnoticed by anyone, the Polish Peasant Party [PSL]—thus far considered a classical example of a party incapable of dealing with the media—has assumed control over major centers of the "fourth power."

Ryszard Miazek, [PSL Chairman] Waldemar Pawlak's henchman, has been appointed president of Polish Television [TVP]—the institution that has the strongest influence on shaping public opinion. For the last two years, Wlodzimierz Gogolek, another of Pawlak's proteges, has headed the POLISH PRESS AGENCY [PAP]—on which a majority of regional dailies depend for their reporting. For the same period of time, Jozef Kowalczyk has been head of the Supervisory Board of Polish Radio, an institution enjoying a great deal of public trust.

As RZECZPOSPOLITA has recently reported, the Democratic Left Alliance and the PSL agreed that a nationwide television license should go to Antenna 1, which appointed PSL Deputy Tadeusz Sytek to head its Supervisory Council. Unofficial sources claim that Ciech [foreign trade company], strongly affiliated with the PSL, is one of the top candidates to take over a majority stake in the RZECZPOSPOLITA daily from the Hersant group.

In the context of the growing influence of the peasants on the media, an interesting question arises as to how they envision the functioning of this sphere of public life.

The controversial statements recently issued by Miazek have been widely publicized. They are hardly surprising, considering the official statements made by PSL deputies over the last two years. "The independence of television from democratically elected state organs is tantamount to independence from society," said Marian Krol at the Sejm one year ago, when the National Radio and Television Council (KRRiTV) submitted its annual report. "The governing coalition should change that. TVP must be subservient to the state, while in fact remaining largely independent of its actual sovereigns."

His parliamentary club colleague, Wladyslaw Stepien, was more specific. "A large patriotic demonstration was held in Pilsudski Square on 2 May. The State Fire Department and the Chief Council of the Voluntary Fire Brigades received a banner. The "Wiadomosci" newscast [from TVP's First Program] did not say a word about it. As a member of the parliamentary firefighter club, I have been authorized to protest such discrimination of Polish firemen. We will demand that television show a report on the ceremony in prime time."

A similar vision was presented by PSL deputies who debated the KRRiTV report. "Parliament has a mandate to govern, and the media are no exception," said Eugeniusz Grzeszczyk. The PSL voted against the KRRiTV because the previous day TVP had broadcast Michal Ogorek's satirical program. "The program attempted to pit parliamentarians representing the rural areas against their voters," said an outraged Adam Daraz. "It was said that when we go shopping in the city, we buy cheaper goods, not Polish. A joke was also made that the only entertainment for Polish farmers are christenings. It is not difficult to guess who is behind this."

As the Radio and Television Law was being amended to increase the prerogatives of the TVP Programming Board, Adam Wos—also a PSL deputy—said: "The Council will now have real influence on the content of

broadcast programs. This gives the governing majority control of what goes on in the public media. Some claim this is tantamount to censorship. Even if there is some truth to it, I do not see any reason for such dramatization."

There are plenty of similar arguments. It is worth mentioning the idea of another PSL media expert, Michal Strak, currently a KRRiTV member. When he was head of the Office of the Council of Ministers during Waldemar Pawlak's government, he considered the possibility of introducing an amendment to the Radio and Television Law that would guarantee the government two hours of air time for its own use. He thought that television reporters were so unskilled and unethical that it was not even worthwhile to appoint a spokesman for them because it would be impossible to cooperate with him effectively in any case.

It is difficult to say whether the fact that representatives of a group advocating such a vision now head TVP, Polish Radio, PAP, and other media can have an impact on the condition of Polish journalism. The opinions of the parliamentarians, despite what they want, do not translate so easily into the functioning of the media.

Over the past seven years, however, the process of democratization in our public life has gone so far that any attempts at controlling the media are doomed to fail. Yet the events of the last several months teach one to never say "never."

One other question arises: Is the presence of so many PSL activists in top positions in the media the result of a strategy employed by Pawlak, who—unable to deal with the media—decided to control them, or is this rather a series of various coincidences that unexpectedly turned the PSL into a ruler of the media?

Whatever the answer to that question is, it will be interesting to see whether the public image of the PSL will soon change for the better. Perhaps Pawlak will unexpectedly win the next presidential elections as a charismatic leader who knows how to project the right image in the media?

Federal

FRY: Belgrade Wants Charges Brought by Bosnia Annulled

LD0205203296 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1854 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Hague, 2 May (TANJUG)—The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] today requested the International Court of Justice in The Hague to halt proceedings stemming from charges brought against the FRY by the Muslim government in Sarajevo.

This case does not fall under the competence of the International Court because this is not a dispute between two states, which is the type of dispute for which the court was set up. This case refers to internal relations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in whose civil war Yugoslavia did not take part in any way, and consequently it cannot be sued or be a party in the dispute, the request for halting the proceedings says.

Rodoljub Etinski, the main legal adviser at the FRY Foreign Ministry, explained the request at the International Court today on behalf of the FRY.

The charges of the Muslim government in Sarajevo refer to the FRY's alleged aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and the violation of the international convention banning and preventing the crime of genocide. [passage omitted]

Serbia

Serbia: 'Widening Chasm' Between Serbia, Montenegro Noted

AU0305065296 Paris AFP in English 0403 GMT 3 May 96

[By Milan Dragovic]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, May 3 (AFP)—The widening chasm between powerful Serbia and Montenegro, its junior partner in the rump Yugoslavia, is raising questions here about how long their uneasy alliance can survive.

The marriage of convenience between the biggest and smallest republics of the former Yugoslavia is a permanent source of friction, with Montenegro (pop. 600,000) accusing Serbia (pop. 10 million) of being domineering and of trying to centralise all the levers of power in Belgrade.

In the four years since Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and Slovenia broke away, dif-

ferences between the remaining two republics, which in theory are "equal in rights" under the new Yugoslav constitution, have grown to the point where serious questions are being asked both here and in Podgorica, the Montenegrin capital.

In both republics, the leadership belonged to the now defunct Yugoslav League of Communists. But whereas in Serbia the socialists led by President Slobodan Milosevic have found it hard to divest themselves of their ideological past, the Montenegrins have privatised 80 percent of the state sector and have multiplied contacts with the West.

This week, Montenegro's President Momir Bulatovic paid an official visit to Britain to discuss the "development of diplomatic, economic and cultural relations."

His Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic joined him in London after spending a week in the United States on his second visit there in six months—where, according to the Montenegrin press, he was totally ignored by the Yugoslav Embassy.

The dual purpose of these visits was to demonstrate that Montenegro can conduct its own foreign policy and to attract foreign capital to revive the Montenegrin economy.

The media in Serbia have all but ignored them—the more so because Serbian television ceased to retransmit the Montenegrin news bulletin a few weeks ago in what was seen as mark of official umbrage at its neighbour's newfound boldness.

In an interview with the daily NASA BORBA, the young and dynamic Djukanovic, 34, pointed to what he called the "positive evolution" of the United States towards "the policy developed by Montenegro."

His visit resulted in the creation of a Montenegrin trade mission in New York.

Djukanovic also made clear that Montenegro was keen to join international financial institutions despite Belgrade's opposition.

At the beginning of last month, Yugoslavia rejected conditions set by the International Monetary Fund for allowing it to join and maintained that it alone was entitled to be considered the heir to the former Yugoslav federation. Djukanovic said this position was "irrational." By the time Serbian leaders realised that "the market economy is the only option offering any promise," he said, Montenegro would be already "far ahead" of Serbia. "Montenegro does not want to forfeit a single day more in its development.... We are no longer prepared to suffer because of the inertia of others," he said.

The independent Montenegrin weekly, **MONITOR**—one of whose habits is to always put quotation marks round the initials FRY (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)—said it was to be hoped Djukanovic had succeeded in explaining to the Americans "what keeps Montenegro in a state with a partner which has no intention of renouncing its outdated ideology."

The two republics are also wide apart on other issues, like property ownership, Montenegrin airports, taxation of goods imported by Montenegrin firms, creation of free-trade areas in Montenegro and the status of Montenegrin sporting federations which are boycotting federal bodies to protest alleged discrimination.

Montenegro

Montenegro: President, U.S. Charge Hold Talks in Belgrade

LD0205215796 Belgrade TANJUG in English
2119 GMT 2 May 96

["Pool" item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Podgorica, May 2 (TANJUG)—Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic and U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Belgrade Rudolph Perina discussed in Podgorica on Thursday [2 May] the current political situation in the Balkans.

A statement issued by the presidential office quoted Bulatovic and Perina, who is also deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, as saying Yugoslav-U.S. relations were developing well following the Dayton and Paris peace conferences.

They said recent contacts among ranking Montenegrin government officials and U.S. politicians and businessmen had contributed to the development of bilateral cooperation.

They described as satisfactory the way in which the peacetime logics was being overcome and the use of exclusively political means in resolving outstanding issues between Bosnia's two entities—the Moslem-Croat Federation and the (Bosnian Serb state) Republika Srpska—as well as within them.

Political forces with different political options are being formed that will take part in the coming general elections, it was said in the talks.

In this connection, Bulatovic and Perina said they hoped this would be a strong initial impetus for the real democratisation of political life in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as for the normalisation of life in the former Yugoslav republic in general.

Bulatovic and Perina discussed also cooperation in a series of concrete issues regarding Bosnia's economic recovery.

Montenegro: Commentary Assesses Djukanovic's U.S. Visit

AU0305083996 Podgorica MONITOR
in Serbo-Croatian 26 Apr 96 pp 10-11

[Commentary by Nebojsa Redzic: "United States as a Shortcut"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is pleasant and prestigious to hear as the top news item on the main television news program that the Montenegrin prime minister has gone on a visit to the United States, whereas the "Yugoslav" foreign minister is on a visit to Romania. Though pleasing to the ear, this is, however, too little to allow one to reach the conclusion that Montenegro is more important than its federal partner. It rather makes one share the recently expressed opinion about the difference between the two republics, "that they are like the difference between the death penalty and life imprisonment."

Montenegro still lives in the "modern federation," but many people seem to have forgotten that this circumstance decisively determines its international position and economic prospects. Judging from the announcements on Prime Minister Djukanovic's and Minister Goranovic's visit to the United States, one can conclude that things are not as simple as they may seem. The two politicians will "establish business contacts with international financial institutions and U.S. companies in order to obtain financial support for development programs of Montenegrin companies and to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation." It is pointed out that the visit of the Montenegrin delegation "is a sequel to the politics of normalization and the intensification of the relations between Montenegro and the United States and the diplomatic offensive started last autumn."

If we compare this visit to the one last October, many aspects of this visit to the United States by Djukanovic can be seen as a repetition, primarily the conspiracy that accompanied it. In October, no one knew until the last moment who would go to the United States and when; this time, a step forward was made. Without any, not even half-hearted, announcements, the travelers packed their bags and flew off: The official statement on their visit was broadcast by the media only after Djukanovic's plane left Yugoslav airspace.

The laws regulating the field of foreign investments, which the Montenegrin visitors took with them to the United States, are the same as in October. Although he

promised in October "that pressure would be exerted to eliminate inertia," Djukanovic had to admit that, in the meantime, nothing was done in Belgrade for fresh money to reach Serbia and Montenegro. On the contrary, the experience of the Paris negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, which failed, shows that everything was done so that the dollars will remain where they are.

Djukanovic also admitted that the Montenegrin balance from foreign investments was the same as in October when he announced (and was wrong) that his visit to the United States would bring between \$750 million and \$1 billion for Montenegro. Again, only the independent media noticed the ignorance of both the "Yugoslav" Embassy in Washington and the visitors from Montenegro; again, only a WTN Television professional reported on the activities of the Montenegrin delegation for Radio-Television Montenegro.

It cannot be claimed, however, that Djukanovic has not kept a promise he made last autumn, at least from the point of view of rhetoric. He announced in October that "if the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's membership in international institutions was blocked by political obstacles from Belgrade, then Montenegro will try to get international credits by a shortcut." Having probably realized in the meantime that one cannot get to the United States via China, Djukanovic—judging from the well-measured statement made by Washington correspondents—said: "The possibility that Montenegro will reach a direct financial arrangement with the IMF and the World Bank, if this is necessary, will be discussed."

When, however, the consistency and the need to keep a promise clash with inexorable truths that contradict them, things do not look idyllic. Regardless of whether he likes it or not, Djukanovic will have to remember the statement he made in October that "the IMF and the World Bank, following the principles of their work, establish relations only with central states and their central banks."

Since nothing has changed in the federal state in which Djukanovic's economy exists, and since there have been no changes in the rules of the international financial organizations, it is difficult to find the foundation for the above-mentioned announcement by the prime minister. His "shortcuts" in line with the Montenegrin Constitution could perhaps enable the access of the international capital organizations, but it must be borne in mind that the IMF can be entered "only through the front door."

It is, in any case, pleasant for the Montenegrin delegation that it was received at a high level in Washing-

ton, that the talks with the host were held in accordance with the earlier-determined platform, and that the United States set the date for the visit required by Montenegro (which was, admittedly, semi-official) only a day after Avramovic's failure in Paris. It was also pleasant to hear words of praise for the Montenegrin privatization model; it was reiterated that as many as 90 percent of Montenegrin companies have been privatized. And since they certainly did not admit that there was a gentleman by the name of [Serbian Democratic Party spokesman] Danilo Vuksanovic who did not allow the work to be performed where it should be performed [not further specified], they probably had difficulties explaining what rational reasons have made them stay in a joint state with a partner who will not think of changing its anachronistic ideology.

There is perhaps someone who will remind Djukanovic of his statement "that it is clear that Montenegro is interested in a joint state in which its strategic determination is respected." After that, he will probably be promised another billion dollars, but on condition that he remains consistent to his own principles.

There are certain significant things that Djukanovic will achieve for Montenegro in the United States. He will establish contacts with some commercial U.S. banks, and he might also find prospective partners for investment in development projects. It is also important that the Montenegrin trade mission is being opened in Washington and that the Southern European economic initiative—a kind of the Marshall plan for the enhancement and integration of the whole region—is being started.

Still, this time, Djukanovic will also have to accept that the the "taps" of international capital are tightly closed for Montenegro's devoted partner. This is what he was told clearly, and he is also aware himself of how far "Yugoslavia" has moved away from the fulfillment of the political and economic conditions required from it. "As long as the present regime is in power, any help for Serbia and Montenegro would be interpreted as the acceptance of ethnic cleansing and genocide," Branko Milanovic, a World Bank expert, stated. Admittedly, the Dayton agreement was signed in the meantime, but the picture of the regime to which Djukanovic has contributed actively has not changed.

After having once again gobbled up compliments such as "Montenegro fulfills the conditions for communication with the IMF and the World Bank," Djukanovic left Washington with empty hands. Unless a miracle happens, and the prime minister brings a decree from the United States on the independence of Montenegro, the outer wall of sanctions and the inexorable rules of the

financial institutions will remain in the way of "good" Montenegrin intentions.

When he returns home and tells all this to his Belgrade bosses, they can once again bewail yet another failed attempt, by which Djukanovic, taking a shortcut, should have moved Belgrade closer to Washington.

Although the offensive Montenegrin diplomacy has failed another examination in Washington, there need be no doubt that the prime minister's followers at home will again rub their hands in glee—if for no other reason, for the fact that this semi-official visit to a center of international capital will have intensified Djukanovic's private connections and friendships, which could prove useful later on, when he is no longer a politician. He and his followers are happy with that at the moment. For them, it is a comfort.

Kosovo

Kosovo: UN Envoy Favors International Efforts for Dialogue

LD0205200796 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1903 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pristina, 2 May (TANJUG)—Elisabeth Rehn, the UN special envoy for human rights, said in Pristina this evening that the causes of a possible conflict in Kosovo-Metohija must be removed.

At a news conference she spoke in favor of a dialogue between the Serbian and Yugoslav authorities and representatives of Albanian political groups, and announced a greater involvement of the international community in that respect.

She added that it would not be good if, because of the situation in Bosnia, Kosovo "remained outside the circle of consideration and conflicts broke out there."

Asked whether she shared the international community's opinion that Kosovo-Metohija is a constitutive part of Serbia and Yugoslavia, the UN special envoy said that "under the Constitution, Kosovo is part of Yugoslavia." She added that she "cannot go into interpretations of the Constitution," and explained that she was "in charge of human rights only."

Rehn told journalists that she had had talks today with Ibrahim Rugova, the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, Adem Demaci, the representative of the Human Rights Committee in Pristina, and representatives of other Albanian political parties.

She also visited the family of Arben Daci who was recently accidentally killed in Pristina. She also expressed her condolence to the families of the Serbs killed in Decani and the family of the dead policeman.

Elisabeth Rehn is scheduled to have talks tomorrow with representatives of the Kosovo district and the authorities in Pristina.

Kosovo: Rugova, UN Official Discuss Human Rights

AU0305060896 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Republic of Kosova, today received separately the associates of the high representative for the former Yugoslavia Carl Bildt—Ambassador Martin Luc, chairman of the working group on regional issues, and political adviser David Ostin—as well as Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn, special UN rapporteur on human rights. Mehmet Haziri reports:

[Haziri] After briefing Bildt's associates on the current situation in Kosova, which has been aggravated due to the Serbian aggressor and the latest incidents in particular, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova stated that the people of Kosova have declared their wish for independence through a referendum and that the most optimal solution would be an independent and neutral Kosova. On this occasion, Dr. Rugova reiterated the demand for an international civil administration as a transitory phase with the aim of creating preliminary conditions to resolve the problem through talks.

Ambassador Martin Luc explained that he had come to Kosova to become familiar with the stances of the Albanian side for resolving the Kosova issue and to examine the possibilities of initiating talks on other specific issues. He informed Rugova that Carl Bildt is expected to visit Prishtina by the end of the month.

In a press statement, Bildt's associate assessed the meeting with President Rugova as very useful. In our next visit to Kosova, we will hold more substantial talks, he said. This delegation represents a large part of the international community.

Democratic League of Kosova (LDK) representatives Dr. Fehmi Agani, Hydajet Hyseni, Fatmir Sejdiu, and Edita Tahiri also held talks with Bildt's associates. The LDK leaders reminded them that the Serbian repression and terror against Albanians present potential sources of the conflict in Kosova. They warned that the talks on Kosova should not be held just for the sake of holding talks, but that they should be serious and that their result should be guaranteed by international community institutions.

The Kosova Information Center also reports on the meeting President Rugova held today with Elisabeth Rehn, special UN rapporteur on human rights in the

former Yugoslavia. Rugova thanked Rehn for the interest shown by her and her efforts to improve the situation in Kosova.

Voicing his concern over the latest events in Kosova, President Rugova told Rehn that Albanians have not responded to this situation with violence, which is why it is to their merit that no conflict with tragic consequences has erupted in Kosova and the region. Albanians will continue to accomplish their will for independence through political means and equal talks and the mediation of a third international party.

Mrs. Rehn expressed her concern over the recent situation and pledged sincere commitments in this direction. In a statement for correspondents, Rehn stressed that she openly talked with President Rugova, focusing on important issues for the Kosovar people and cause. During the day, Mrs. Rehn also met with representatives of the Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms and Albanian associations, as well as other Albanian dignitaries in Kosova.

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